

2013 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
OXFORD MOUNTAIN CATTLE ALLOTMENT

This is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Oxford Mountain C&H Allotment. This Plan is part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on fences and water developments must be completed before cattle enter the forest. Non-use does not relieve any permittee from their range improvement maintenance responsibility.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

NUMBER OF CATTLE (COW/CALF) BY PERMITTEE

PERMITTEE	Term	Term Head Months	20% Reduction	2013 Numbers
Jared Simpson-Spr Hills	375	375	--	375
Mountain – Unit				
Jared Simpson	480	1440	1228	384
Palmer Ranch LLC	122	368	313	98
GD Farms	109	328	278	87
Robert Smith	112	336	288	90
David Smith	80	240	204	64
TOTAL	903	2712	2311	723

This is the 2nd year of a 20% reduction. During the last 5 years there has been an evaluation of the carrying capacity on the allotment. Proper use has been difficult to meet consistently and even more so on below average precipitation years. It is recommended to implement these management items:

- Remove the variable portion in the term grazing permit.**
- Separate Spring Hills out to be its own allotment.**
- Adjust season of use from June 1 to September 30 to June 25 to September 30.**
- Modify permitted numbers by reducing 20%.**

The dates described for moving cattle from unit to unit are approximate based on proper utilization criteria standards listed below.

Rotation

Spring Hills Unit: 3 to 4 weeks (375 Head – Simpson)

Herbaceous Utilization	Uplands	50%
	Critical winter range	35%
Browse Utilization	Critical winter range	10%
	Uplands	40%
Stubble Height	AIZ (area between the stream and upland vegetation)	4 inch

First Creek Unit:

Enter in the Rattlesnake area with 160 head 6-8 weeks: (Simpson & Palmer)

Herbaceous Utilization	Uplands	45-50%
Stubble Height	AIZ	5 inches
Bank Disturbance		10%

Third Creek Riparian Unit: Enter after July 1st to mother up (563 head)

Herbaceous Utilization	Uplands	45%
Stubble Height	AIZ	4/5/6 inches*

*early/mid/late season of use

Mountain Unit: 12 weeks (563 head)

Herbaceous Utilization	Uplands	45-50%
Stubble Height	AIZ	4/5/6* inch
Bank Disturbance		10%

*early/mid/late season use

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 25%. (e.g. poa, redtop, etc)
Stubble Height (AIZ)	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ will vary between 3 to 5 inches at the end of the grazing period depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
Stubble Height (Greenline)	Allowable stubble height measurements, along the greenline, will be 8 inches at the end of the grazing period. (e.g. carex)
% Woody Species utilization	Allowable woody utilization 10-20%
% Cumulative Bank Disturbance (Alteration)	Refers to short term (annual) physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 10 %.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

When proper use is achieved in each grazing unit, all cattle must be cleaned from the unit and pushed into the next scheduled unit of use. Five days will be allowed to move cattle from one unit to the next.

The horse pasture can continue to be used for problem cows. This may help to alleviate pressure on some of the key sites such as Third Creek above the riparian pasture, or other sites impacted by livestock. Coordination with the Maple Hollow allotment is needed for the adjacent use and maintenance of this area.

Wide distribution of salt. Salt is an important management tool. It must be distributed throughout a given grazing area prior to cattle entering a unit, and must be located at least ¼ of a mile from water, meadows, and roads.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

If cattle drift into the First Creek unit after the unit has been cleaned out, they are to be moved out promptly. Once a unit is grazed any drift-back is detrimental. The objective of rotational grazing is to give vegetation and soils time for recovery in order to promote continued and increased productivity. Failure to follow this direction can result in reduced grazing seasons.

Portions of the Spring Hills Unit have been classified as critical winter range. Stricter standards have been issued for those areas and are listed under the Spring Hills Unit above.

Cattle must be herded, not drifted home. Cattle on the forest after the approved grazing season are not authorized.

A forest closure order exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit, and must be certified and tagged as noxious weed or noxious weed seed free, as directed by the order.

Please notify our office of any noxious weed populations on your allotment so that we can send our crew out to map and treat them.

Any change which deviates from these Annual Operation Instructions must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

Please contact Hans Bastian at 236-7526 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffery J. Hammes

JEFFERY J. HAMMES
Westside District Ranger

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
GD Farms	<i>/s/ Gary T. Davis</i>	<i>3/27/13</i>
Jared Simpson	<i>/s/ Jared Simpson</i>	<i>3/27/13</i>
Robert Smith	<i>/s/ Robert Smith</i>	<i>5/8/13</i>
Palmer Ranch LLC	<i>/s/ Travis Palmer</i>	<i>3/27/13</i>
David Smith	<i>/s/ David Smith</i>	<i>3/27/13</i>